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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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30 September 1961

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS

25X1



4. Angola: Portuguese apparently have failed to regain control of areas outside of towns in north. (Page ii)

25X1



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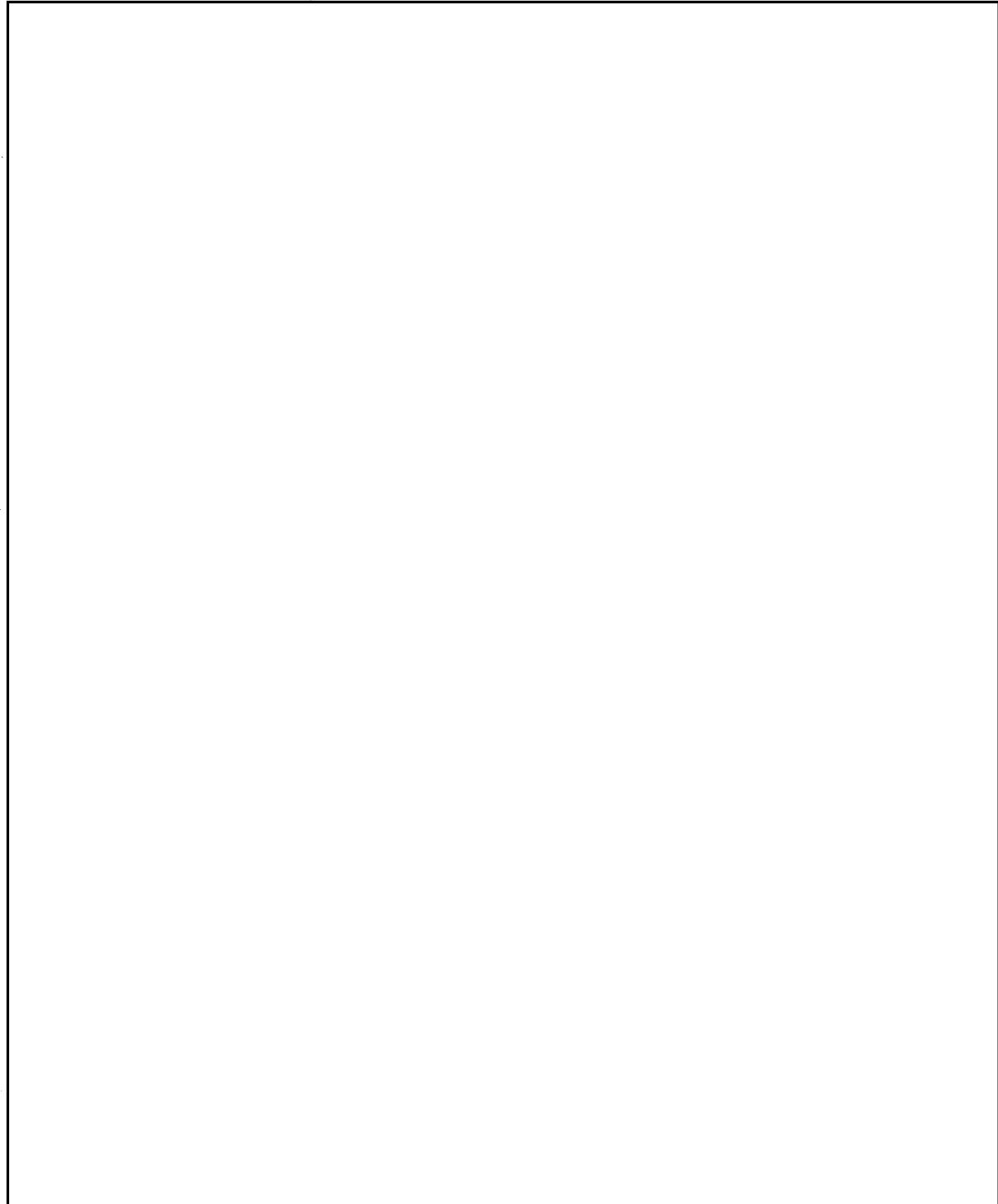


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Angola: According to the American Consulate in Luanda,
Portuguese authorities are expected to announce soon that the

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30 Sept 61

DAILY BRIEF

ii

25X1



25X1

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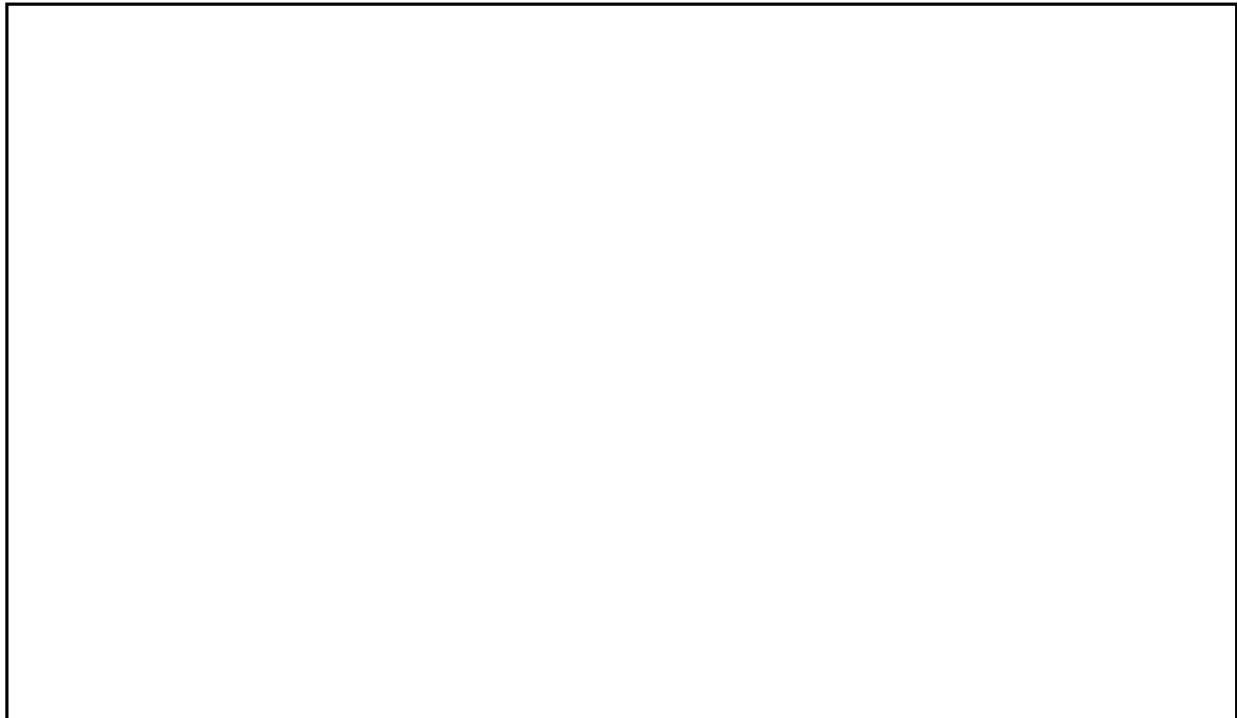
government's "limited military objectives" in northern Angola have been "substantially accomplished." The announcement probably will coincide with the beginning of the rainy season, which will end Portuguese offensive operations.

The Portuguese apparently have failed to regain control of the areas outside of towns, and their control of many roads is tenuous at best. They are therefore unlikely to be able to restore economic activity in the region; moreover, the rebels will probably be able to consolidate their hold on rural areas in preparation for further offensive action. [redacted]

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30 Sept 61

DAILY BRIEF

iii

25X1
[redacted]

25X1

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Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2003/04/17 : CIA-RDP79T00975A006000030001-1

Portuguese to Announce Limited Success in Angola Offensive

The objective of the Portuguese offensive in northern Angola was to eradicate major pockets of resistance in the interior and to close the Congo border. By reinforcing the border posts, Portugal seems to have reduced rebel movements from the Congo, and the Portuguese forces did destroy some rebel centers. Furthermore, the American Consulate in Luanda reports that all towns in the northern area have been reoccupied and all roads have been traveled at least once. The Portuguese apparently have fortified the major towns and have set up a network of airstrips by which the towns can be supplied during the rainy season, when overland movement will be almost impossible.

It is doubtful, however, whether the development of Portuguese strong points will offset the anticipated rebel consolidation in the countryside. Moreover, by burning plantations and attacking harvesting parties, the rebels have disrupted the production of coffee, a crop which accounts for half of Angola's earnings abroad and constitutes Portugal's main dollar earner. The fighting has driven the native population, which previously had done most of the coffee picking, into the bush or across the border into the Congo. Proposals that this labor be replaced by Portuguese "soldier-farmers" who would occupy a "buffer zone" between the rest of Angola and the Congo have so far not been implemented.

[Although the long-term outlook for the Portuguese is unpromising, leaders of the Angolan Peoples' Union (UPA), the principal rebel organization, reportedly are extremely discouraged as a result of several difficulties confronting them.]

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[UPA President Holden

Roberto is under increasing pressure to collaborate with the Communist-backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), which allegedly is also supported by the Gizinga group in the Leopoldville government.

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[Christophe Gbenye, the

Congolese Government's Gizingist interior minister, has said he was willing to help the Angolans, but would not deal with a series of separate organizations. A merger of the two groups would greatly benefit the MPLA, which seems to have few adherents in Angola.]

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